

Materials Recycling Facility Information 2005

- This county-owned facility has been in operation since June 1991. A private company has been contracted to operate the plant and market the materials.
- The plant was expanded in 1996 from 18,880 sq. ft. to 29,312 sq. ft., increasing the processing capacity from 80 to 140 tons per day, adding full paper and container sort lines and adding a second floor education room.
- There are two sort lines: one for paper and one for containers. The private company has an average of 20 people working on the plant floor and 2 in the office. Employees on the sorting lines wear safety glasses, earplugs, special gloves, Terry cloth sleeves and "bump" caps.
- On the paper line, sorters pull off corrugated cardboard, phone books, unwanted mail/home office paper, newsprint/ magazines, and chipboard (cereal and snack cartons, beverage carries). Each type of paper is stored in holding bins until it's baled and stacked in the storage area awaiting pickup by a semi from one of the paper companies.
- On the container line, a screen separates small pieces of broken glass (mixed color) and sends it by conveyor to a storage area outside; next, a magnetic belt pulls off the steel/tin cans; then, a strong current of air pushes the lightweight plastics and aluminum cans to a separate conveyor belt for sorting by hand. Meanwhile, workers sort the glass bottles and jars by color - brown, green and clear.
- In 2005, the plant processed **23,720 tons** of recyclables.
- Daily tonnage varies. The average is @ 85 - 100 tons per day or about 20 truckloads.
- Paper makes up about 70% of material processed, by weight.
- **85,957 households** receive weekly recyclables collection in 25 municipalities served by the MRF.
- One year of recyclables shipped to market would fill 1,065 semi loads (20 T. per load). If lined up bumper to bumper, the trucks would measure over 12 miles in length.

Materials Shipped Out	Tonnage 2005	% Material Processed	Cubic Yards of Landfill Space Saved	Number of Trees saved	Energy Savings (1)	Reduced Greenhouse Gas Emissions (2)
Paper*	14,726	69	36,049	159,372	2,344	8400
Steel/Tin	576	3	2589		112	217
Aluminum	332	2	1544		653	1012
Plastic**	1,480	7	7532		738	464
Glass	4,177	19	5569		105	273
TOTAL***	21,291	100%	53,283		3,952	10366

*Includes newspaper, phone books, magazines, corrugated cardboard, household mail/paper, boxboard (cereal boxes, soda cartons)

**Includes PETE (#1 plastic bottles) and HDPE (#2 plastic bottles)

***Does not include scrap metal

(1) Equals energy use for number of households per year.

(2) Equals greenhouse gas emission reduction in passenger car equivalents (# of cars off the road per year).